

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37, and 41 are amended. Claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, and 40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-35, 37-39, and 41 are pending and under consideration.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite a coordinate detection device "including a calculation unit configured to calculate a distance between a final coordinate value of a previous input operation and a beginning coordinate value of a current input operation by said input unit so that an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in a relative coordinate value mode, the current input operation occurring after a detachment of the input device from the surface of said input unit during the immediately preceding previous input operation; . . . wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit." Claims 5, 9, 17, 21, 25, 29, and 41 are similarly amended.

Claim 13 is amended herein to recite a method of detecting coordinates including inputting at least one coordinate value to a surface of an input unit using an input device; determining an operation mode of said inputting; enabling an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation in a relative coordinate value mode by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting if a second inputting occurs within a predetermined time after the first inputting; and calculating a distance between the set coordinate value of the first inputting and an initial coordinate value of the second inputting, wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit, and the distance calculated by said calculating is transmitted to a host apparatus so as to prevent the second inputting from being connected to the first inputting on a display." Claim 37 is similarly amended.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Item 2:. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

In item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Independent claims 1, 5, 9, 17, 21, 25, 29, and 33, all as amended herein, clarify that an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in a relative coordinate value mode.

According to an embodiment, the present invention does not switch the relative coordinate value mode to the absolute coordinate value mode, but rather enables an "absolute coordinate value mode"-like inputting operation in the relative coordinate value mode by calculating "a distance between a final coordinate value of a previous operation and a beginning coordinate value of a current input operation by said input unit," as recited in claim 1, for example.

Independent claim 13, as amended herein, clarifies "enabling an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation in a relative coordinate value mode by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting if a second inputting occurs within a predetermined time after the first inputting; and calculating a distance between the set coordinate value of the first inputting and an initial coordinate value of the second inputting, wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit."

That is, according to an embodiment of the present invention, as illustrated in Figure 12, for example, an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation (stroke (b)) is enabled in a relative coordinate value mode (first mode) by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting if a second inputting (stroke (b)) occurs within a predetermined time (T_i) after the first inputting (operation (a)).

Applicant also points out that claim 37 is amended similarly to the amendment of claim 13, and claim 41 is amended similarly to claim 1.

Summary

Applicant submits that all independent claims (and respective dependent claims) comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and the rejections should be withdrawn.

Item 3:. Objection to the Specification

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the specification and asserts that

the recitation of "the off-contact time is longer than the-predetermined time T1" should be changed to -- the off-contact time is shorter than the predetermined time T1" on page 18, lines 10-12.

Applicant respectfully points out to the Examiner that the previous Amendment filed in April 3, 2005 had already amended the specification to read

If the result of step S34 is "YES", that is, the off-contact time is shorter than or equal to the predetermined time T₁, the process goes to step S36, in which the second mode or the absolute coordinate value mode is set.

Summary

Accordingly, the Examiner's concern was already addressed and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Items 5: Rejection Of Claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In item 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being rejected by art Toshiaki (JP02-288913). (Action at page 4). The rejection is traversed.

Claim 41, as amended herein, recites a writing device including "a detector detecting a plurality of input signals from a writing instrument; and a switch capable of switching between a relative coordinate value mode and an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation based on the detected input signals, wherein the detector detects a coordinate value based on the switching, and wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the writing instrument is detached from a surface of an input unit."

Applicant submits that Toshiaki does not teach recited features of claim 41 including the recited "switch capable of switching between a relative coordinate value mode and an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation based on the detected input signals."

The Examiner asserts:

Toshiaki teaches a writing device comprising a detector(3) for detecting a plurality of input signals from a writing instrument(l , stylus or pen); and switch(5) for switching between a relative coordinate value and an absolute coordinate mode based on the detected input signals and the detector(3) detects a coordinate value based on the switching(see figures 1, 3, 4 and abstract) (emphasis added).

That is, the Examiner is asserting that the absolute/relative changeover switch of Toshiaki teaches the "switch" recited by claim 41.

By contrast, Toshiaki teaches in column 3, line 20 to column 4, line 4 that gate means (20

of FIG. 5) prevents the coordinate data from coordinate detection means (for example, 4 of FIG. 1) from being input to coordinate data creation means (for example, 6 of FIG. 1) if a relative coordinate system operation has been set by absolute/relative changeover means (for example, 5 of FIG. 1) and there is no contact detection signal from contact detection means (for example, 3 of FIG. 1).

That is, Toshiaki teaches that the absolute/relative changeover switch 5 is for setting one of the relative coordinate input mode and the absolute coordinate input mode as a coordinate input mode prior to a coordinate input operation.

Therefore, unlike the "switch" recited by claim 41, the absolute/relative changeover switch 5 taught by Toshiaki is not "capable of switching between a relative coordinate value mode and an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation based on the detected input signals", which are "from a writing instrument." (Emphasis added).

Summary

Since features recited by claim 41 are not taught by Toshiaki, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 41 allowed.

Item 7 : Rejection Of Claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In item 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaultier et al. (U.S.P. 6,034,672) in view of Yoshinobu et al. (U.S.P. 5,777,065). (Action at page 5). The rejection is traversed.

Claim 41, as amended herein, recites a writing device including "a detector detecting a plurality of input signals from a writing instrument; and a switch capable of switching between a relative coordinate value mode and an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation based on the detected input signals, wherein the detector detects a coordinate value based on the switching, and wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinte value mode based on a time dureing which the writing instrument is detached from a surface of an input unit."

Applicant submits that these features are not taught by the cited art, alone or in combination and neither Gaultier nor Yoshinobu, alone or in combination, teach a switch capable of switching between a relative coordinate value mode and an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation based on the detected input signals, wherein the detector detects a coordinate value based on the switching, and wherein the absolute coordinate value mode

inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the writing instrument is detached from a surface of an input unit.

The Action concedes that Gaultier does not teach a writing instrument. (Action at page 5). However, the Examiner asserts:

Yoshinobu et al teach a writing instrument . . . It would have been obvious to have modified Gaultier et al with the teaching of Yoshinobu et al, since Yoshinobu et al have disclosed a pointer would be a pen or finger . . . and a user could enter data quickly into a computer system with the pen tool.

Applicant further submits that since Gaultier is directed to a device or management of a cursor there is no motivation to modify Gaultier's teaching of a management of a cursor so that "a user could enter data quickly into a computer system with the pen tool, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to make such a modification.

Summary

Since *prima facie* obviousness is not established, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 41 allowed.

Items 8-9 and 11-12: Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-35, and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In items 8-9 and 11-12 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-35, and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Examiner asserts is Applicants' admitted prior art (APA) in view of combinations of Yoshikawa (U.S.P. 5,790,105), Louis (U.S.P. 6,088,023), and Yoshinobu et al (U.S.P. 5,777,605). The rejections are traversed.

I. Recited Features Not Taught by *Arguendo* Combination of Cited Art

Applicant submits that recited features are not taught by the cited art, alone or in combination. Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites a coordinate detection device including "an input unit, having a surface thereof, to which a coordinate value is input by an input device; and a detection unit that determines an operation mode of said input unit, the detection unit further comprising: a calculation unit configured to calculate a distance between a final coordinate value of a previous input operation and a beginning coordinate value of a current input operation by said input unit so that an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in a relative coordinate value mode, the current input operation occurring after a detachment of the input device from the surface of said input unit during the immediately preceding previous input operation; wherein a coordinate value at a time when the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit is set as the final coordinate value of the previous

input operation, and wherein the distance calculated by said calculation unit is transmitted to a host apparatus so as to prevent the current input operation from being connected to the previous input operation on a display, and wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit."

Independent claims 5, 9, 17, 21, 25, 29, and 33, all as amended, have similar recitations. Applicant points out that in each of said claims an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in a relative coordinate value mode.

That is, the present invention does not switch the relative coordinate value mode to the absolute coordinate value mode, but enables an "absolute coordinate value mode"-like inputting operation in the relative coordinate value mode by calculating "a distance between a final coordinate value of a previous operation and a beginning coordinate value of a current input operation by said input unit," as recited by claim 1 for example.

Independent claim 13 recites a method of detecting coordinates, comprising: inputting at least one coordinate value to a surface of an input unit using an input device; determining an operation mode of said inputting; enabling an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation in a relative coordinate value mode by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting if a second inputting occurs within a predetermined time after the first inputting; and calculating a distance between the set coordinate value of the first inputting and an initial coordinate value of the second inputting, wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit, and the distance calculated by said calculating is transmitted to a host apparatus so as to prevent the second inputting from being connected to the first inputting on a display.

As an example, Figure 12 of the specification illustrates, for example, an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation (stroke (b)) is enabled in a relative coordinate value mode (first mode) by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting if a second inputting (stroke (b)) occurs within a predetermined time (T1) after the first inputting (operation (a)).

Applicants submit that none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teach such features. Applicant submits that, by contrast, Yoshikawa teaches that the operation mode is determined

(switched) based on the pressure applied to the table sheet 6, and not based on "a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit." (See, for example, column 11, lines 28-37 of Yoshikawa.)

The Examiner relies on Louis's teaching of "a coordinate input device for determining the operation mode of inputting based on a time during which input device (finger or stylus) is detached from the surface of the input unit (16, 18) " (Action at page 9).

However, according to column 5, lines 47-56 of Louis, one of the relative mode and the absolute mode can be selected by holding down the switch 18 or by toggling the switch 18 twice in rapid succession. Applicant submits this does not teach determining the operation mode of inputting based on a time during which input device is detached from the surface of the input unit because the input device (finger or stylus) of Louis is attached to or detached from only the input surface 16, which has nothing to do with switching between the relative mode and the absolute mode.

Rather, since the input surface 16 and the switch 18 are separate members, the Examiner is incorrect in equating the combination of the input surface 16 and the switch 18 as teaching the "input unit" of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teach that the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit.

II. Alleged APA is not APA

In item 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the alleged APA includes the disclosure in Figs. 1-2, 4-8. (Action at page 6). Applicant submits that, at the minimum, the cited Figures 6, 7, 8 of the specification of the present invention are not Applicant's admitted prior art. Rather, as described in the specification, for example:

FIG. 6 is a flowchart of a coordinate detection process according to an embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 7 is a flowchart of a process of a second-type mode determination based on an off-contact time; FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a coordinate detection process according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Accordingly, since the primary art relied on by the Examiner, that is asserted Applicant's prior art is not available support of the rejection, that *prima facie* obviousness is not established.

III. No Motivation To Modify The Art

Applicant further submits that even *arguendo* that the Examiner's contention regarding asserted Applicants' admitted prior art is correct, there is no motivation to modify the asserted APA modify with Yoshikawa in a manner as the Examiner suggests.

That is, one would not modify the asserted APA with Yoshikawa's teaching directed to a pointing so a cursor "can be moved to a desired position by pressing the tablet sheet only once at the position corresponding to the cursor destination."

Summary

Since *prima facie* obviousness is not established, the rejections should be withdrawn and claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-35, and 39-40 allowed.

Item 10: Rejection of claims 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In item 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the alleged APA in view of Yoshikawa and Suzuki et al. (U.S.P. 5,561, 447).

The rejection is traversed. Independent claim 37 recites a computer-readable recording medium that stores a method of detecting coordinates including "inputting at least one coordinate value to a surface of an input unit using an input device; enabling an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation in a relative coordinate value mode by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting if a second inputting occurs within a predetermined time after the first inputting; and calculating a distance between the set coordinate value of the first inputting and an initial coordinate value of the second inputting, wherein the absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation is enabled in the relative coordinate value mode based on a time during which the input device is detached from the surface of said input unit, and the distance calculated by said calculating is transmitted to a host apparatus so as to prevent the second inputting from being connected to the first inputting on a display."

Applicant submits that none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teach the recited features. Applicant submits that the Examiner appears to support the rejection by relying on Suzuki's as disclosure as teaching the recited "setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting." However, Applicant submits that, instead, Suzuki discloses at column 7, lines 43-44 "if the input pen 13 has been lifted up in step S204, the input data in steps S202 and S203 is not used."

That is, according to Suzuki, the input data in steps S202 and S203 (a coordinate value of a first inputting) is not set "as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting" because the input data is discarded. Thus, Suzuki teaches away from the claimed invention as recited by claims 37-38.

Further, Applicants submit that, at the minimum, the cited Figures 6, 7, 8 of the specification of the present invention are not Applicants admitted prior art. present invention. Accordingly, since the primary art relied on by the Examiner, that is asserted Applicant's prior art is not available support of the rejection, that *prima facie* obviousness is not established

Summary

Since features recited by independent claim 37 and dependent claim 38 are not taught by the cited art, alone or in combination, and prima facie obviousness is not established, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 37-38 allowed.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

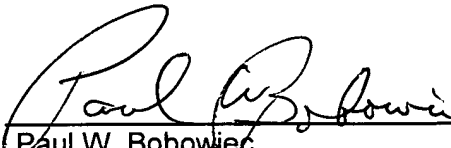
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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